presents

ZERO GAME

CHAPTER 1

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QWERTY Scans

WE HAVE MOVED!

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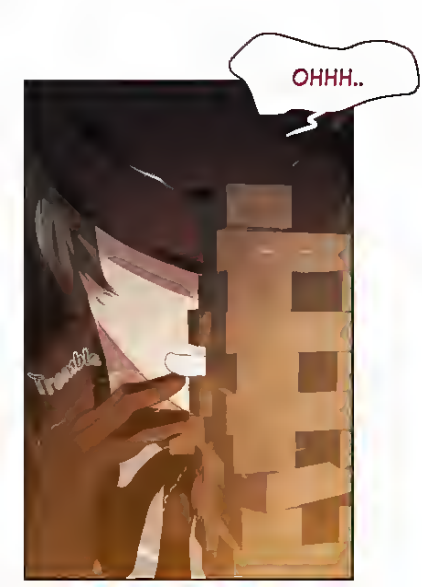

OHHH..

STEP
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTRUSION SIR X.
I HAVE BROUGHT THE MONTHLY REPORT OF THE TOP 5 RANKING PLAYERS OF DECEMBER 12TH.
LEVEL 3 NPC
LITA

T/N. NPC – Non-Player Character

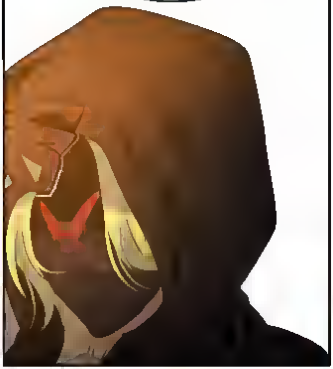
5TH PLACE
JOO PA RAN.
1356 LIVES.
LEVEL 1 CLEARED.

4TH PLACE
BAEK SHINWOO.
1782 LIVES.
LEVEL 3 CLEARED.

3RD PLACE
LOVEME.
2132 LIVES.
LEVEL RECORD
UNAVAILABLE.

2ND PLACE
JAY.

2785 LIVES.
LEVEL 5 CLEARED.



1ST PLACE
BAEK SAN.

4120 LIVES.
LEVEL 5 CLEARED.

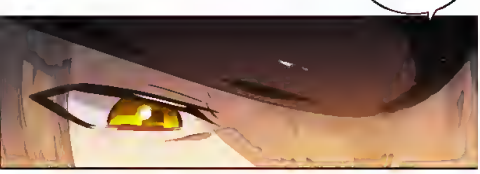
IT'S BEEN THE EXACT SAME RANKING FOR SIX MONTHS NOW.

SHOULD I GIVE UP ALL HOPE THAT IT'LL EVER CHANGE?

NO.
TODAY WILL BE DIFFERENT.

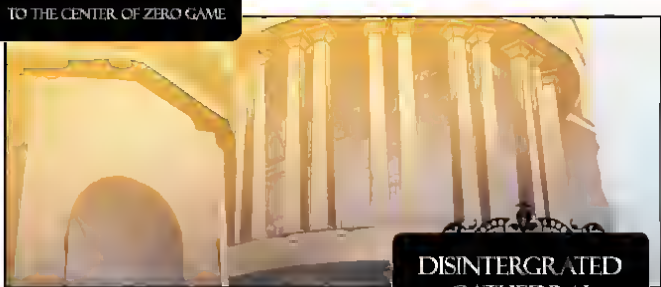
I SENSE THAT THE RANKING WILL CHANGE THIS AFTERNOON.

AH.



Zero game
제로게임

SHORTCUT
TO THE CENTER OF ZERO GAME



DISINTERGRATED CATHEDRAL

WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET THERE IN ABOUT 30 MINUTES.

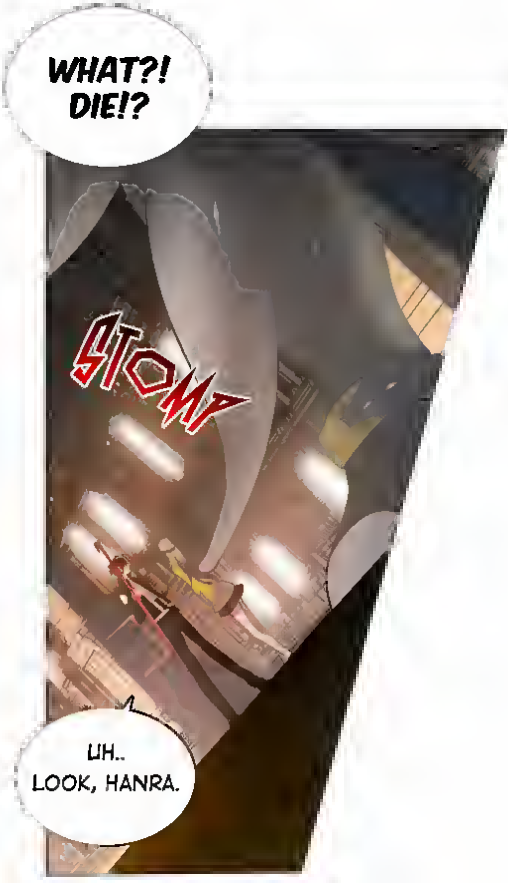
OKAY..

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, I'D BE HAPPY TO ANSWER THEM.
UH.. WELL, I WAS A BIT CURIOUS ABOUT HOW YOU USED THAT LIGHTNING

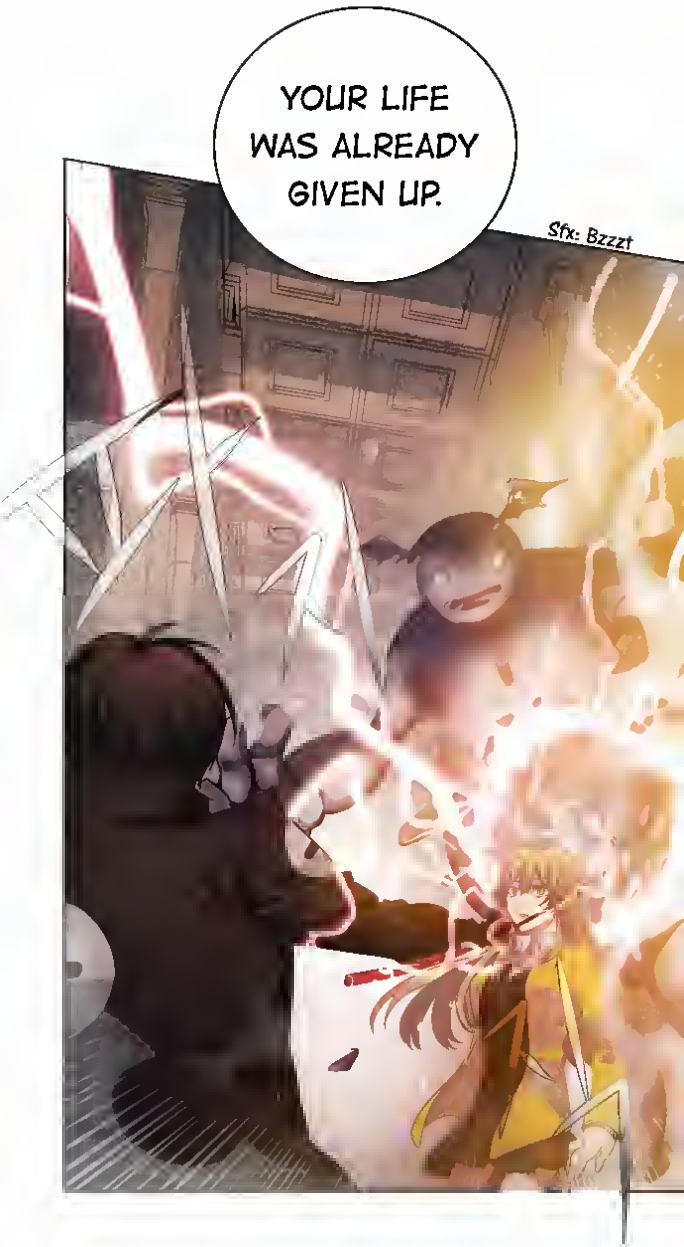
HMM..
HOW TO EXPLAIN THIS IN SIMPLER TERMS..
I GOT IT!
IT'S LIKE SPENDING MONEY TO BUY SOMETHING, LIKE WE DO IN THE REAL WORLD.
Swoosh
EXCEPT FOR THE PART WHERE WE USE SOMETHING CALLED 'LIFE' INSTEAD OF DOLLAR BILLS.
YOU CAN USE THESE TO BUY SKILLS, WEAPONS AND CHALLENGE TICKETS.
THE FASTEST WAY TO EARN THEM IS TO CLEAR LEVELING STAGES.

CLEARING LEVELS..? NPC ? WHAT IS ALL THAT .
I ASSUME YOU'VE RECEIVED A STRANGE CARD AND AN EMAIL AS WELL., CORRECT?
WELL JUST LIKE WHAT WAS WRITTEN DOWN ON BOTH MESSAGES. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO PLAY THE GAME
THE GAME CONSISTS OF *STAGE LEVELS* AND THE *NPC'S* ARE THE ONES WHO GIVE OUT THE TASKS FOR IT
THIS WILL ALL END WHEN THE WINNER GETS TO MEET THE OPERATOR OF THE GAME.
TO TELL HIM HOW THEY WANT THEIR NEW LIFE TO BE REBUILT

AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE REST OF US AFTER THAT?
DIE, PROBABLY.

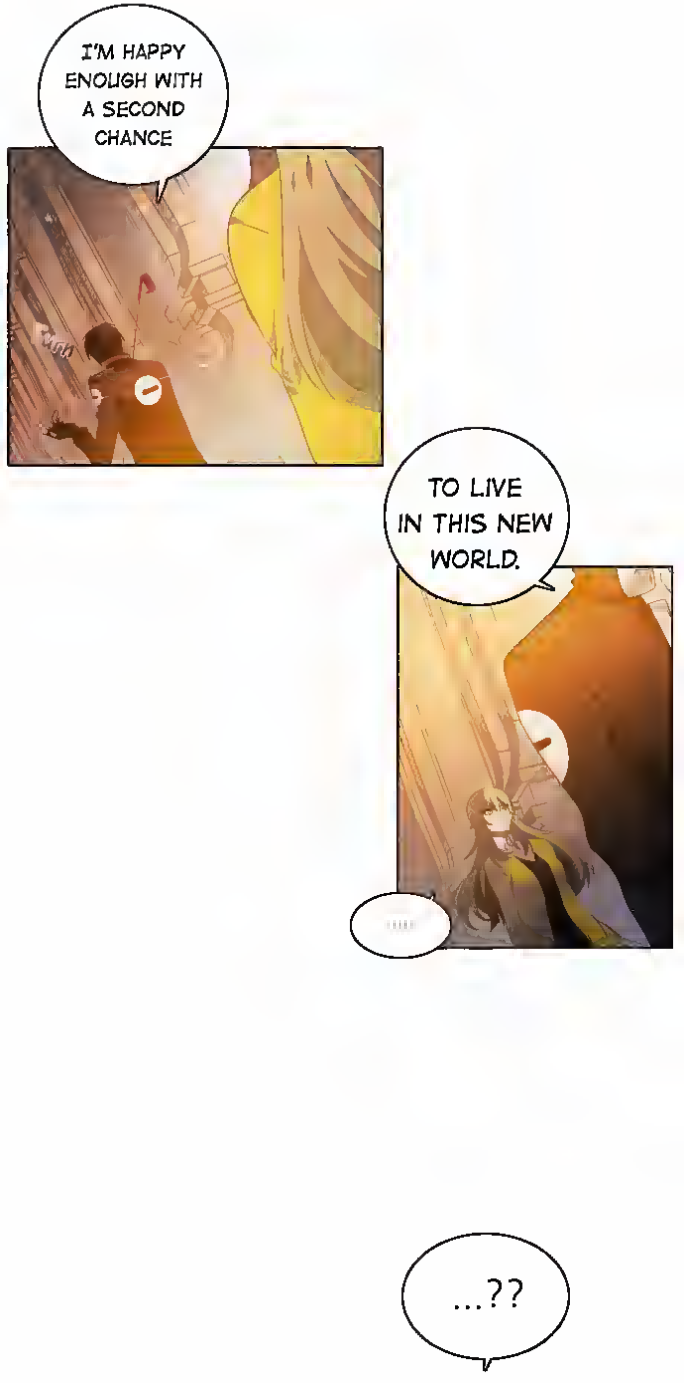

WHAT?! DIE!?
STOMP
UH.. LOOK, HANRA.

I DON'T THINK YOU GET IT.
DIDN'T YOU READ THE CONDITIONS BEFORE COMING HERE?
FROM THE MOMENT YOU STEPPED INTO THIS GAME
WHOOSH


YOUR LIFE WAS ALREADY GIVEN UP.
Sfx: Bzzzt

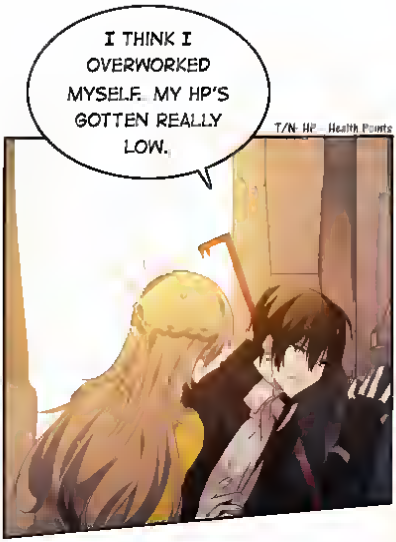
AND SOME WISE ADVICE. TRY NOT TO TRUST ANYONE YOU MEET.
THEY MIGHT BACKSTAB YOU IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
SO THEN.. WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME..?
BZZT
BECAUSE I HAVE NO INTENTION OF WINNING WHATSOEVER.
BZZT

T/N: Yep. Not suspicious at all O_O


I'M HAPPY ENOUGH WITH A SECOND CHANCE
TO LIVE IN THIS NEW WORLD.
.....
...??

WE NEED TO KEEP MOVING IF WE'RE GOING TO GET TO A SAFE...
...ZONE...
WOBBLE

ARE YOU OK?!
AH... SHOOT...


I THINK I OVERWORKED MYSELF. MY HP'S GOTTEN REALLY LOW.
T/N: HP - Health Points

Ugh...
BUT THE SAFE ZONE ISN'T FAR FROM HERE...
EH..?! DON'T DIE ON ME NOW!
Hesitate

WELL IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?!

HMM, WELL....

THERE IS ONE WAY..

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A PAIR WITH ME?

A.. PAIR?

APPEAR
YEP.
IT'S A SYSTEM THAT LINKS TWO PEOPLE TOGETHER AS A TEAM.

BEING A PAIR ALLOWS US TO USE EACH OTHER'S HP BACK AND FORTH, AND WE CAN ALSO LOCATE EACH OTHER AS WELL
IT CAN GIVE US THE UPPER HAND WHILE PLAYING.
TWO'S BETTER THAN ONE, DON'T YOU THINK?

THIS SOUNDS PRETTY FUNNY. COMING FROM ME, AFTER TELLING YOU NOT TO TRUST ANYONE
BUT MAYBE WE COULD..

SINCE PAIRINGS CAN BE UNDONE AT ANYTIME, WHY DON'T WE JUST TEAM UP UNTIL WE GET TO THE SAFE ZONE?
THINK OF IT AS A TEMPORARY ALLIANCE OF SOME SORT
. . .!

WELL THEN..
WHAT WOULD YOU
LIKE ME TO DO..?

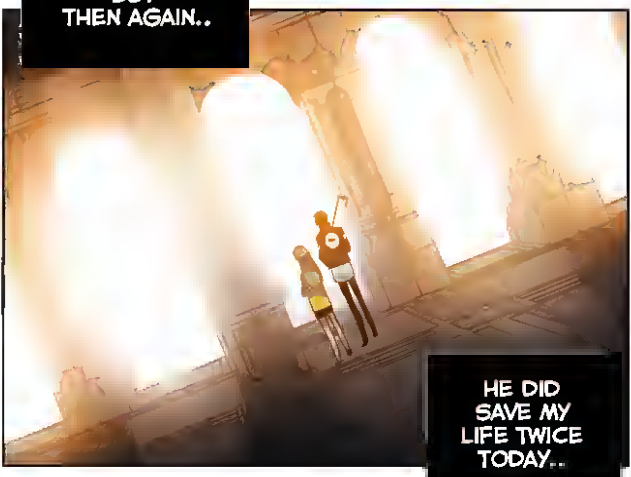
SIMPLE~!
?!

JUST SCAN YOUR FINGERPRINTS HERE, AND THE SYSTEM WILL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
AFTER THIS IS DONE, YOU CAN HELP ME RESTORE SOME OF MY HP.
THIS GUY..

I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE HE'S BEING SO SMOOTH WITH HIS WORDS

CAUSE I HAVE A FEELING THAT I'M BEING TRICKED.

BUT THEN AGAIN..



HE DID SAVE MY LIFE TWICE TODAY..

PLUS I HAVE "THAT" TO PROTECT MYSELF IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG.

OKAY.
I'LL TRUST
YOU.

YEAH...
THANKS.

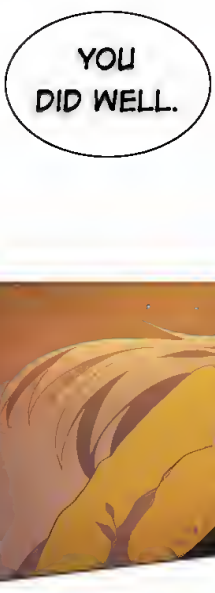
Press

101

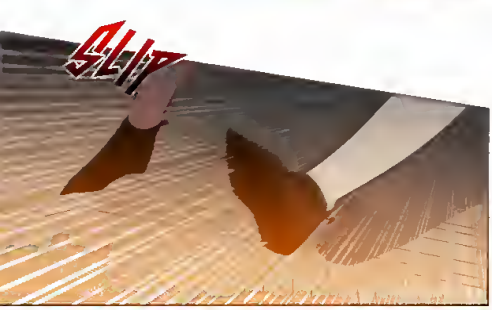
ACTIVATING 'PAIR SYSTEM' NOW LOADING

DECEMBER 12TH 'PAIRING COMPLETED'

THANKS HANRA.


YOU DID WELL.

PUSH


SLIP

AHH...!
CRASH
WHAT ARE YOU..!?

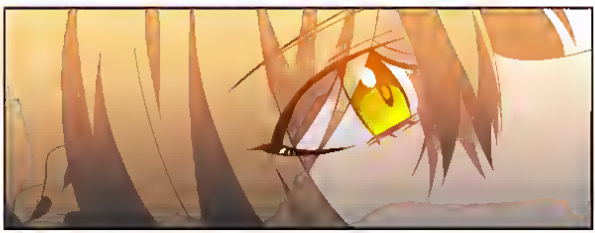
SHUT UP AND JUST DIE.
SHIT!!

BUT YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY HP LEFT...
BZZT
YOU'RE SO NAIVE.
I THINK I WAS CRYSTAL CLEAR ABOUT NOT TRUSTING ANYONE.
SHOULD I MAKE IT SIMPLER FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND? WELL, I'LL TELL YOU.

YOU WERE DUMB ENOUGH TO FALL FOR MY TRAP.

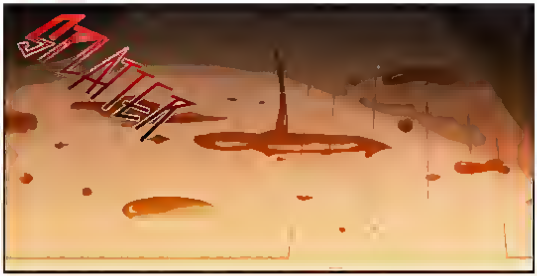
YOU USED ME..

WHEN AND IF A BEGINNER DIES IN THE GAME, THEIR LIFE PIECES JUST EVAPORATE INTO THIN AIR.
BUT IF THEY DIE WHILE PAIRED WITH ANOTHER PLAYER, THE LIVES THEY LEAVE BEHIND GETS TRANSFERRED TO THEIR PARTNERS.
IT'S COMMON FOR BEGINNERS LIKE YOU TO BE TRICKED.
PLAYERS THAT HAVE HIGHER STATUS POINTS WITH MORE INFORMATION HAVE ADVANTAGES GAMES THAT USE RANKING SYSTEMS ARE UNFAIR THAT WAY
SO DON'T BLAME THIS ON ME TOO MUCH.



MY BAD LUCK
WITH PEOPLE

GOODBYE HANRA.



SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU

BUT
CLANK
THAT'S MY LINE.

?!!
YOU WERE CRYSTAL CLEAR WHEN YOU SAID NOT TO TRUST ANYONE
Plop-

DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULDN'T HAVE A BACKUP PLAN?

NO WAY.. YOUR BASIC PASSIVE..
YEP YOU MUST HAVE ONE TOO, THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS IT

AS YOU CAN SEE MY PASSIVE HAPPENS TO BE A 'MIRROR RING'.

IT GIVES YOU THE POWER TO DEFLECT AN OPPONENT'S ATTACK ONCE EVERY 24 HOURS.

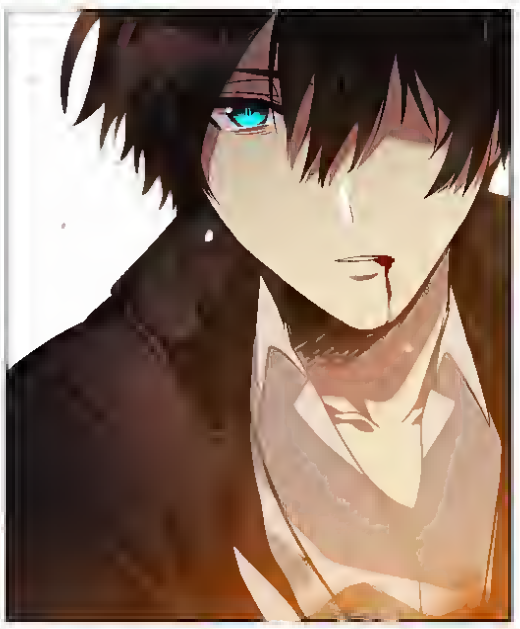
YOU KNEW I WAS LYING.. SINCE WHEN..?

YOU TOLD ME YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT WINNING.

BUT YOU ALSO SAID THAT THE REST OF US WOULD ALL DIE IN THE END EXCEPT FOR THE WINNER

IF YOU REALLY DON'T CARE..

THEN HOW COME YOU'RE SO EAGER TO LIVE?



..NOT BAD

I'VE LEARNED A LOT THANKS TO YOU.

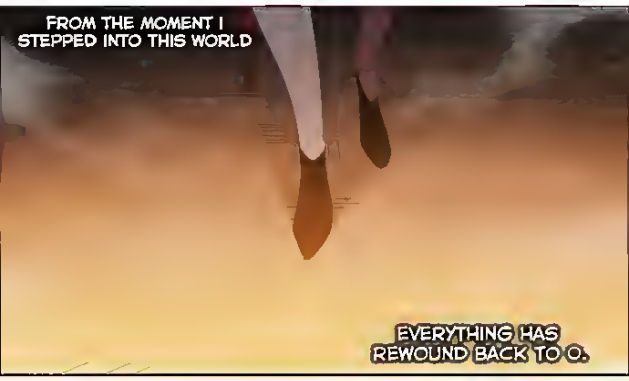
T/N: We learn something new everyday ^^

I MYSELF HAVE NO INTENTION OF DYING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

EVEN IF IT MEANS GETTING RID OF SOMEONE IN THE PROCESS.

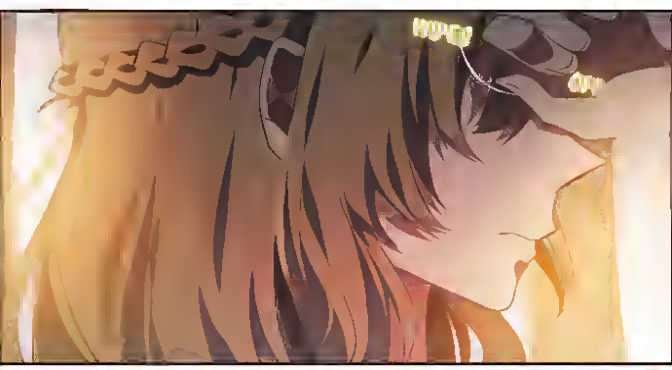
I'M GOING TO SURVIVE.

A ZERO.
WHICH IS A DOUBLE EDGED SWORD.
A NEW START YET AN END.



'A NEW CHANCE
TO REBUILD YOUR DREAM LIFE'

WE CAN BE A FAMILY AGAIN,
JUST LIKE WE USED TO BE.



AND THAT'S WHY I'M MORE THAN DETERMINED TO SURVIVE TILL THE VERY END.

I'M GOING TO WIN.

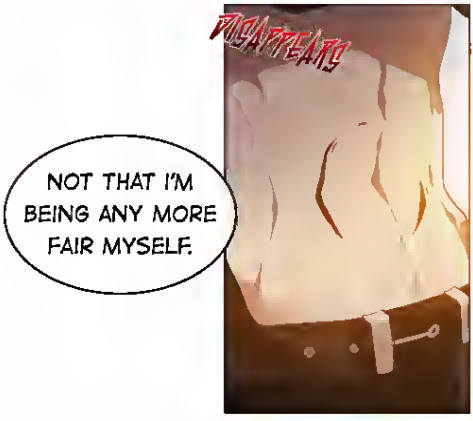
MOVE

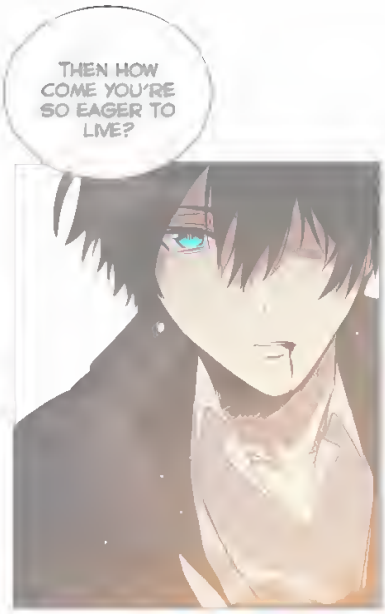
SWOOSH

Gets Up

HUH...
SO IT REALLY DOES DEFLECT EVERYTHING.
SHE'S DAMN LUCKY TO START OFF WITH A PASSIVE LIKE THAT.

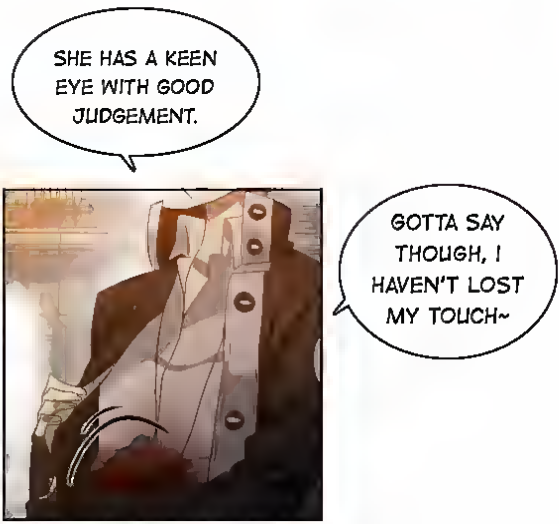
I HEARD THAT NEW PLAYERS WOULD BE GIVEN A BIT MORE OF AN ADVANTAGE THAN BEFORE
BUT ISN'T A MIRROR RING GOING TOO FAR?


PICK APPEARS
NOT THAT I'M BEING ANY MORE FAIR MYSELF.


THEN HOW COME YOU'RE SO EAGER TO LIVE?

.....

HOW ARROGANT.
BRUSHES OFF



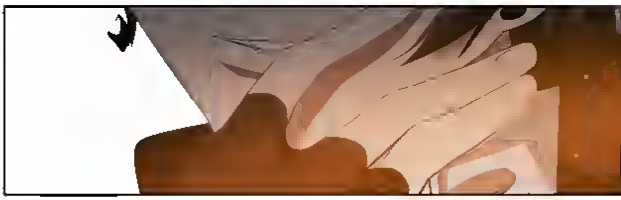
T/N: Yeah, yeah~ you're awesome. We get it~

SUCH A PITY THAT SHE LACKS ONE THING.

BEING CARELESS ENOUGH TO LEAVE BEHIND IMPORTANT ITEMS.

HOLDS
MISS YOO HANRA, YOUR PASSIVE
HAS BEEN SELECTED AS A 'MIRROR RING'
EFFECT: DEFLECTS OPPONENTS ATTACK
ONCE EVERY 24 HOURS

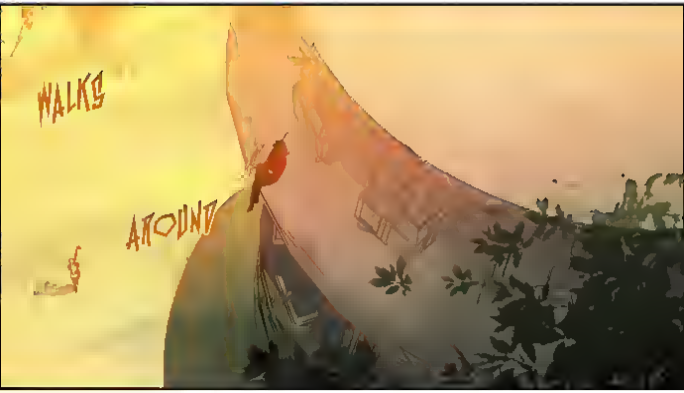
I HAVE VERY



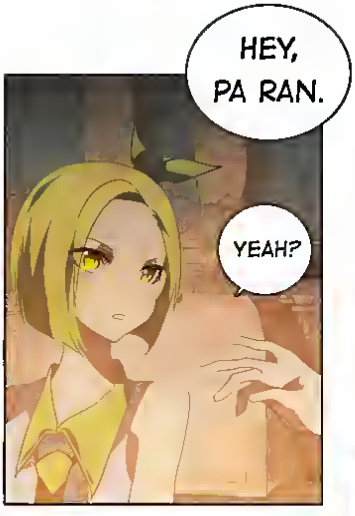
HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR OUR NEW PARTNERSHIP

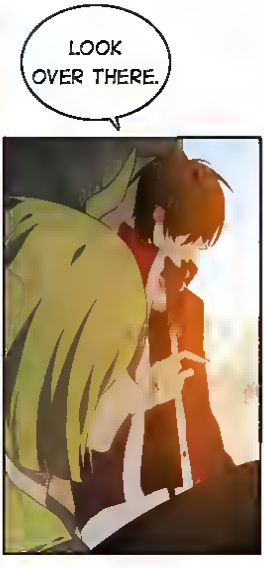
MY LITTLE LAMB.

Chirp-
Chirp-


WALKS
AROUND

HMM....?


HEY, PA RAN.
YEAH?


LOOK OVER THERE.

BAEK SHINWOO...?
WAIT THAT'S NOT HIM.. WHO IS THAT.?
WELL, WELL...
SEEMS IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT I VISITED MY DEAR OLD BABY BROTHER AGAIN.

Zer0game

STORY, ILLUSTRATION JEULBAHSEN

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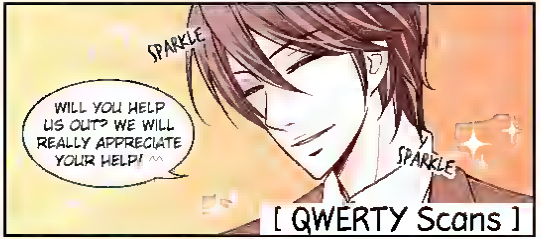
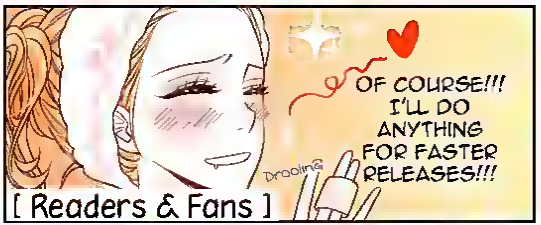
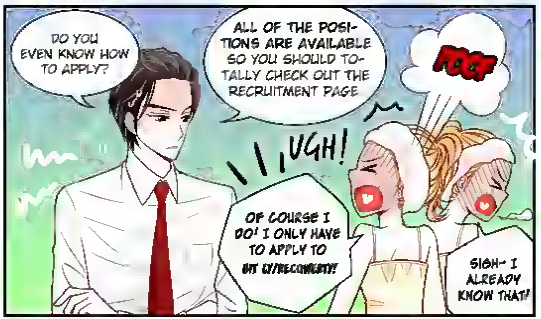
[01] INSPECTING THE CONTRACT IN DETAIL


SPARKLE
WILL YOU HELP US OUT? WE WILL REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP! ^^
SPARKLE
[QWERTY Scans]


OF COURSE!!! I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR FASTER RELEASES!!!
Drooling
[Readers & Fans]


DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW TO APPLY?
ALL OF THE POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE SO YOU SHOULD TOTALLY CHECK OUT THE RECRUITMENT PAGE
POUT
UGH!
OF COURSE I DO! I ONLY HAVE TO APPLY TO UNRECOMMENDED!!
SIGH~ I ALREADY KNOW THAT!